



Senate Approves Cornyn-Feinstein Measure Opposing Immigration Amendments on the Supplemental

April 13, 2005

Washington, DC – The U.S. Senate today approved an amendment sponsored by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) that calls for a careful debate about immigration reform, but urges the Senate not to attach such reform measures to the supplemental appropriations bill.

Senator Cornyn is the Chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Senator Feinstein is a member of that subcommittee. The amendment was approved by a vote of 61 to 38.

“I believe it is a huge mistake to bypass the Judiciary Committee and bypass the Subcommittee on Immigration and go directly to the Senate Floor on legislation that could have enormous ramifications for this country,” Senator Feinstein said. **“I have been a member of the Immigration Subcommittee now for 12 years. California is a big immigration state -- the largest in America. I understand the agricultural labor needs of the state as well as anyone.”**

“That’s why it is so critical that we have hearings in committee, we have a markup where we can offer amendments, and present a bill that has been scrubbed, amended and is ready for primetime. I don't think we should pass a bill quickly on an appropriations bill without going through the necessary steps to adjust it and amend it in committee.”

The amendment stated that it is the Sense of the Senate that:

- Our immigration system is badly broken, fails to serve the interests of our national economy, and undermines respect for the rule of law;
- In a post 9/11 world, national security demands a comprehensive solution to our immigration system;
- Congress must engage in a careful and deliberative discussion about the need to bolster enforcement of, and comprehensively reform, our immigration laws;
- Congress should not short-circuit that discussion by attaching amendments to this supplemental outside of the regular order; and
- Congress should not delay the enactment of critical appropriations necessary to ensure the well-being of the men and woman of the United States Armed Forces fighting in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, by attempting to conduct a debate about immigration reform while the supplemental appropriations bill is pending on the floor of the United States Senate.